

INTERCENSAL AND POSTCENSAL ESTIMATES OF COUNTY POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX: 1980-2002

Technical Notes

Intercensal and Postcensal Estimates of County Population by Age and Sex are a long-standing series produced consistently with the share method since 1980. In general, this method yields a trended extension of an age-sex cohort's share of the county total population as well as of the corresponding age-sex cohort at state level.

Estimates of total county populations used for the intercensal and postcensal periods 1981 through 2002 were developed using a combination of three methods: Component Method II, Ratio Correlation and the Housing Unit Method. Estimates of intercensal and postcensal population by age and sex for the state were developed independently using a cohort-component model based on vital statistics and migration estimates.

The procedure of the Share Method, which is used to produce the intercensal county age-sex estimates, is outlined below, using the 1980 decade as an example:

1. County shares of the state for each age-sex group were developed for 1980 and 1990 using census data.
2. Estimates of each county's share of the state's age-sex groups for 1981 through 1989 were developed by assuming the decade change was linear.
3. Estimates of each county's share of the state's age-sex groups for 1981 through 1989 were applied to the state age-sex population estimates for 1981 through 1989.
4. For each year in the intercensal period the resulting county age-sex population estimates were controlled to the independent estimates of total county population, and then the sum of the population in all counties for a given age-sex group was controlled to the state population for the same age-sex group. This dual iterative procedure resulted in a good convergence after several cycles.

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